



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

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News Release

For Immediate Release

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The James J. Peters VA Medical Center Commemorates 9/11

Bronx, NY – On a sunny, comfortable, early fall afternoon, veterans and staff of the James J. Peters VA Medical Center gathered to participate in the VISN-wide Patriot Day event called, “Freedom Walk.”

The first installation of this annual event was initiated by the VISN MOVE committee and executed at each facility in Network 3. The initiative is intended to serve the dual purpose of encouraging healthy activity as well as commemorating the tragedy and the heroics of September 11, 2001.

At the James Peters VA, 146 enthusiastic participants – including four members of the local NYPD precinct - enjoyed the brisk walk, brandishing hand-held flags as they navigated the ¼-mile track, patriotically festooned with Flags and Balloons. Most participants completed at least one mile along the course, and many walkers logged two and three miles. All participants received flags and commemorative coffee cups provided by the Medical Center, as well as pedometers and bottled water provided by the Veterans Canteen Service.

“Its always a good day to get a little exercise.” Said fitness enthusiast and walk leader, Yvonne Melton-Gyesi, “We had great weather and a lot of enthusiasm and it was great to see so many of our veterans and staff out to commemorate this special day.”

For more information about the 9/11 Freedom Walk or about the James J. Peters VA Medical Center, please contact James E. Connell, Director of Community and Government Relations, at 718.584.9000 x6620 or via email at jim.connell@va.gov.

